

89. Use of a component(s) contained in ginseng as a leading compound(s) for searching a novel compound(s) having protective actions on brain cells or nerve cells.

Abstract

The present invention provides medicinal or pharmaceutical compositions and preparations for administration, which are useful as cytoprotective agents and a remedy for neurotrauma, comprising ginseng, its extract, ginseng components, metabolites thereof or salts thereof (for example, red ginseng powder or components thereof). More particularly, the present invention provides medicinal or pharmaceutical compositions for inhibiting apoptosis or apoptosis-like cell death, medicinal or pharmaceutical compositions for promoting the expression of a cell death-suppressing gene product Bcl-x_L, or preparations for oral or intravenous administration, comprising ginseng, its extracts, ginseng components, metabolites thereof or salts thereof preferably at low concentrations. These medicinal or pharmaceutical compositions and/or preparations for administration are characterized by containing, as the active ingredient(s), ginseng, its extracts, ginseng components, metabolites thereof or salts thereof at low concentrations. These drugs are useful for therapy, prevention or treatment of brain and nervous diseases, heart diseases, etc.